

## **Mead's Milkweed** *Asclepias meadii*

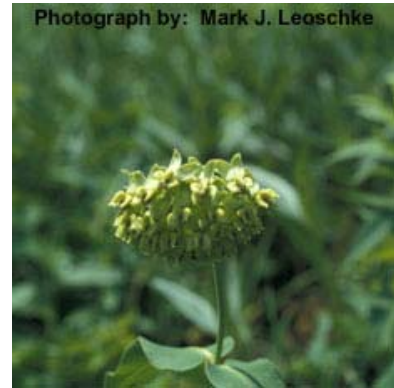
**Habitat:** Mesic tallgrass prairie

**Blooms:** Late May to mid-June. Flowers are yellowish-green to green

**Seeds:** Released July through September

**Threats:**

- Loss of natural habitat
  - Conversion of prairie to cultivated ground
  - Tree and shrub invasion – shade is detrimental to the long-term survival of this species
- Yearly haying can prevent seed maturity and weakens adult plants
- Invasion of non-native plants
- Fragmentation of habitat limits the population size of pollinators
- Overgrazing
- Herbicide drift



**Habitat Improvement Guidelines**

- Early spring burns (by April 15<sup>th</sup> in southern Iowa and by April 20<sup>th</sup> in northern Iowa)
- Fall burns (October or later)
- Woody invasion removal (avoid disturbance of individual plants)
- Limit haying
  - Hay the portion of the site where the milkweeds do not occur
  - Hay a portion of the site rather than the entire site
  - Hay after mid-September to allow seeds to mature and disperse
  - Mark the milkweeds and mow around them
- Limit grazing
- Establish new tracts of grassland surrounding existing populations to buffer against herbicide drift